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## News & Views

Boulder River School and Hospital

May 8, 1974

### FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

JUN 15 '77

#### STATE DOCUMENTS

The residents of Boulder River School & Hospital are fortunate because of the Foster Grandparent Program. This unique, federally funded, volunteer program has brightened hundreds of days for the residents of BRS&H. Walk the halls of the non-ambulatory unit and notice a tiny tot beaming with joy because "grandma" is pushing his wheelchair. Or find a proud "grandpa" and a delighted "grandson" spending a sunny afternoon fishing along the banks of the Boulder Pond. Or witness the undivided attention occurring between grandparent and grandchild as they share a storybook and you will see LOVE in action. This is the Foster Grandparent Program at Boulder.

The "grandma bus," as it is referred to by many of the residents, arrives every weekday bringing Foster Grandparents from Helena, Butte, and areas in between. Each cottage has a special room designated for the Foster Grandparents. There, the grandmas and grandpas store their magical supplies of delight for their special grandchildren. Essentially, books, games, and toys are the tools of their trade; but, more importantly, their method is communication on a one to one basis. The grandparents are assigned one or two residents of their own, on a permanent basis. Whether sharing a quiet stroll about the grounds, or a rousing game of pool, the grandparents and grandchildren create close, vibrant friendships. The happiness they share is indeed infectious.

An enthusiastic salute to you, Foster Grandparents!

### 1974 MONTANA SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, May 15, 16, 17, thirty-two athletes from Boulder River School and Hospital, participated in the 1974 Montana Special Olympics at Montana Tech. in Butte. Though the official results are not now available, BRS&H did take a good number of gold, silver, and bronze medals, in most events, except swimming, in which we did not participate. Our team was quite competitive.

Accompanied by Recreation Department personnel, the Special Olympic team from BRS&H arrived in Butte on May 15, and checked into their accommodations, at the Finlen Hotel. After an afternoon of touring Butte, the team attended the opening ceremonies. Speaking at the opening ceremonies, after the traditional torch bearer lighted the main torch, were Butte's Mayor Micone, Eunice Shriver, and Evel Knievel. The highlight of the night's festivities was a banquet for all participants.

Thursday, despite inclement weather, which plagued the games daily, the athletes took part in the softball throw, swimming, and volleyball competition. Though BRS&H did not have a swimming team, we made a decent showing in the other events of the day.

Thursday night there was a carnival and dance for the Special Olympic athletes. The highlight of the night's festivities was a booth where the athletes could have their picture taken next to well known celebrities.

Special Olympics (cont.)

The main events, Track & Field, took place on wet and cold Friday, May 17, BRS&H residents came alive and competed well in the standing broad jump, high jump, 50, 100, 220 yard dashes, a 440 yard relay race, and several longer distance races. Included in the day's competition was the unique wheel-chair race. Though the day was wet and cold, the day's events went well for us, and we collected a number of medals.

The Special Olympics are funded by the Kennedy Foundation, but without numerous volunteers and service organizations, the games could not have been as successful as they were. The Butte PROS, in this case mainly young ladies, served as prize-bearers, presenting those who placed in the competition with their proper medal. Various football celebrities, such as Pete Lazoritsch and Jan Stenerud were on hand to present medals and cheer on the competitors. Countless other groups, such as the Butte Jaycees, helped to make the 1974 Montana Special Olympics a success. Montana should be well represented during the National Special Olympics to be held in Chicago this summer.

JIMMY R.: BEEP'S SHINER  
by Barbara Høllum

When Jimmy R. of Cottage 2 entered the Boulder Environmental Enrichment Program (BEEP) this April 3, he was described by his teacher, Angie Kaufman, as being bored with class, and, "if he couldn't do a task, he would become frustrated and just sit and stare." His social worker, Shirley Frisch, noted that Jimmy used to hang his head and walk by her without speaking.

Only six weeks later the BEEP staff describes him as sociable and a very rapid learner. Ms. Frisch notes that he now stops and talks to her more frequently. Twenty-year-old Jimmy learned how to tell time in three weeks and has bought himself a wrist watch with the money he had saved in BEEP's bank. He earned the money by receiving points for specified behaviors in BEEP. ACI Gladys Frank reports that Jimmy is quite proud of his new watch.

Besides learning to tell time, Jimmy has graduated from ten other programs in this short time. He has learned how to wash and dry white and colored clothes, how to patch clothing, shop for his clothing size, iron shirts and pants, set the temperature on a stove and oven, dial a telephone, use a pay phone, and make long distance collect calls. These skills involved 92 step graduations.

BMT Kari Nybo notes that Jimmy is so eager to learn that he watches intently when trainers model a skill and often memorizes their performance.

Jimmy's newest love is learning to write. Upon entering BEEP, he could only write his name. Although he has since received no formal instruction in writing, he spends his spare time in BEEP practicing the letters of the alphabet and simple sentences to perfect his form. The BEEP staff members are anxious to get Jimmy started in a systematic reading and writing program.

The trainers in BEEP report that Jimmy interacts well with them and the other residents at BEEP. He has never been a problem and is the only resident to consistently earn enough points during the week to be able to attend BEEP's Friday afternoon special activity. This means that Jimmy consistently earns points for such

Jimmy R. (cont.)

things as coming to BEEP on time, being well groomed, being courteous, and completing his daily household task assignment.

Jimmy also excels as an athlete having won many ribbons for track events. He is a conscientious worker for the shop crew who have obviously provided good guidance for him.

Jimmy R.'s success in so many areas has been an extremely reinforcing experience for the BEEP staff, who feel their primary contribution has been to structure the learning process for Jimmy in such a way as to maximize progress.

DONATIONS

Last Thursday, May 30, Betty Ann Bryant and Laurie Marxer, eighth grade students representing the C. R. Anderson School of Helena, presented Boulder River School & Hospital with a pick-up truck full of toys. Betty Ann spearheaded the project which included a committee of fourteen students. The toys were collected from the students of C. R. Anderson School. They not only collected a wide variety of toys, but cleaned them and repaired them as well.

By Friday afternoon, Cottage 15 staff had already picked up many of the toys. Kathy Byrne, Cottage 15 supervisor, said she was pleased with the quality and variety of toys. Obviously the children really enjoyed them also, as they had the toys strewn all over the floor and were really involved with them. Ms. Woods, our donations supervisor, was also very pleased by the toys, as her supply of toys was quite low. Ms. Woods had predicted the toys would be a big hit with the children of Cottage 15.

Ms. Woods was also pleased with the toys because she needed them to fill her toy department in the recently revamped Donations Department. Not only has Donations moved to a new location, Cottage 7, but the basic concept of Donations has been changed. Donations is to become more like a real store, with all the items openly displayed on racks or shelves. In effect, the residents will be able to freely shop for what they need or want from what is available. The great amount of toys brought in by Betty Ann and her group are obviously an excellent addition to the store.

Incidentally, we now need a new name for donations to fit its new concept, so if you have any good ideas let Ms. Woods know.

VOLUNTEERS

The recent special volunteer program with Jefferson High School was a success, according to June Miller. The program was especially set up for the Deaf and Blind Program at Boulder River School and Hospital. The high school student volunteers were a capable bunch of people, spending part of each day with the deaf and blind children here on the grounds. The volunteers quickly caught on to the activities expected of them, and remained a reliable group through to the conclusion of the program. Several of the students expressed a strong interest in volunteering during the coming summer months and also expressed an interest in continuing the program next fall. Boulder River School and Hospital, and the Deaf-Blind Program wishes to express their appreciation to the Jefferson High School students who participated in this program. Thank you very much.

### Volunteers (cont.)

Monday, June 3, the Institutional Service Corp arrived at BRS&H to begin their yearly volunteer camp. Tom Lane and Bob Grilley supervise the group of students, who will spend one week of eight hour shifts volunteering in the Non-ambulatory unit, the School, the Physical Therapy Department, the Deaf & Blind Program, and the Recreation Department. The students are Martin Morley in Deaf & Blind, Joan Taylor in Non-amb., Lura Davenport in P.T., and Cheryl Halderman in Recreation. On behalf of BRS&H, we thank these people for their worthwhile efforts.

Starting June 16, the Youth Service Corps (YSC) will again participate in a summer long volunteer program. Headed by Paul and Brenda Hagen, the group will consist of twelve student volunteers from all over Montana. They are Gary Hedegaard of Savage, Myrna Sierving of Saco, Pam Vinnedge of Somers, Carla Calhoun of Laurel, Penny Lynn Sipe of Great Falls, Kathy Helland of Glasgow, Julie Cossitt of Shepard, Debra Dickman of Missoula, Nancy Wolk of Cutbank, Roberta Jaughter of Glendive, and Douglas Cornelison of Powell, Wyoming.

Though direct assignments have not been issued yet, these volunteers will serve for eight weeks in Non-amb., P.T., the School, Recreation, and the library. After In-Service Training, they will work half-days in scheduled activities, then half-days in special projects which each volunteer will develop. Included in their activities will be their popular environmental enrichment projects. Last year the YSC painted pictures on the walls and windows of the hospital building and made mobiles to suspend from the ceilings.

The program is partially funded by the Lutheran Church. Also Paul and Brenda Hagen will be paid Attendant Counselor I salaries to supplement their meager budget. The salaries will be used for rent and food for the group. They plan on staying at the Boulder Housing Project. Some meals will be provided by BRS&H, including all lunches.

### THE GROUNDS

by Jim McMann

They live in a house that will never be home  
Complete with a phone that none of them own.

There is a hallway of course with immovable hangars  
With all sorts of coats, donated by strangers.

Food is trucked over, there isn't a choice  
For out in their kitchen, they haven't a voice.

There's industrial cleaners to polish the floors  
Kept out of their reach by means of locked doors.

The absence of laughter is part of the place  
That even the sound of T.V. can't erase.

So sometimes I worry while doing my chores,  
That their laughter is locked behind one of those doors.

DEAF & BLIND PROGRAM HELPS CREATE SPECIAL CLASSES IN ALASKA

June Miller of Deaf & Blind was recently consulted to help design a special course on multi-handicapped vision-hearing impaired children. The course will be one of three in a program of special summer training courses sponsored by the Northwest Regional Center for Deaf-Blind Children, the Anchorage Borough School District Vision-Hearing Impaired Unit, and the University of Alaska, lasting from June 17 to July 19. The overall program is designed for teachers, parents, and paraprofessionals to improve their services to multi-handicapped vision-hearing impaired children.

The Northwest Regional Center for Deaf-Blind Children will provide tuition for ten students, stipends of \$50.00 per week for ten students, and a \$10.00 per week stipend for fifteen parents. Student housing during the summer program is possible through the Alaska Methodist University.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES - 4/25-5/22

Jeanne Barndt  
Karen Bouidey  
Vicki Brockel  
Dawn Fleming  
Judi Hill  
Peggie Huddleston  
Kay Isler  
George Johnson  
Bruce Lyle  
Pamela Pocha  
Sarah Rausch  
Linda Romeris  
Sharon Robertson  
David Lee Stephans  
Charlie Trott  
Cynthia Wallett

Wayne Chapman  
Kathy Howe  
Delma Erickson  
Clarence Ewalt  
Libby Fisher  
Linda Kay Henry  
William Kelly  
Dale Littlefield  
George Marshall  
Colleen O'Dell  
Michael Pardeu  
Merle St. Clair  
Helen Sanderson  
Richard Smith  
Peggy Stish

There were 31 new employees, and 33 terminations.

RESIDENT MOVEMENT REPORT

From April 26, 1974 to May 24, 1974, there were: six new admissions, three returns from placements, twelve placements, one discharge, and three deaths. Remaining on the grounds as of midnight, May 24, 1974, were 553 residents.

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